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Report of the Secretary-General on Somalia

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 15 of Security Council resolution 2158 (2014), in which the Council requested me to keep it informed of the implementation of the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) every 120 days. The report covers major developments that occurred from 1 May to 31 August 2014.

II. Political and security developments

A. Political situation

2. Overall, there has been positive progress on the political track, albeit punctuated by some worrying developments. In May and June, tensions between State institutions threatened to derail political progress when a group of parliamentarians petitioned the President, Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, to resign. They accused him of failing to implement the Federal Government's six-pillar policy, now known as "Vision 2016", and of not consulting widely. The President's address to the Federal Parliament on 16 June helped to defuse the situation.

3. The Federal Government issued a revised version of Vision 2016 (a plan for the political transformation of Somalia) on 30 June. It is committed to the implementation of the plan with wider Somali buy-in.

4. The formation of regional administrations began gathering pace. On 23 June, the Federal Government brokered an agreement on south-west Somalia between the two rival political initiatives based in Baidoa to establish an interim south-west administration, encompassing the regions of Bay, Bakool and Shabelle Hoose. Ethiopia, as chair of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), signed the agreement as a witness, while UNSOM, the African Union, the European Union and the IGAD special envoys signed as observers. Key figures in the six-region state initiative continue to oppose the agreement, however. The Federal Government, the parties to the agreement and supporting elders plan to launch a reconciliation initiative later in 2014 to promote an inclusive process.

5. There were positive developments in the implementation of the Addis Ababa Agreement of 27 August 2013. The militia leader, Barre Adan Shire ("Hiralle"),

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returned to Mogadishu from the outskirts of Kismaayo on 30 August. About 118 members of his militia also returned and surrendered their weapons to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). The Kismaayo reconciliation conference will open on 16 September and the selection process for the Juba regional assembly will run in parallel with it.

6. In the central regions, the Federal Government held consultations with representatives of the "Regional State of Galmudug", the "Administration of Himan and Heeb" and the leadership of Ahlus Sunnah wal Jamaah. This led to the signing of an agreement on 30 July by which those entities, with the exception of the "Administration of Himan and Heeb", committed themselves to forming an administration for Mudug and Galguduud in a consultative and inclusive manner. The United Nations, the European Union, IGAD and the African Union signed the agreement as witnesses. The "Himan and Heeb" leaders signed on 6 August. The process of selecting a technical committee is under way. The Federal Government is also consulting on the creation of an interim regional administration for the Hiraan and Shabelle Dhexe regions.

7. Tension in the disputed Sool region grew when "Somaliland" forces seized the town of Taleex on 12 June and disrupted a conference organized by leaders, elders and supporters of the self-declared "Khatumo State". The tension escalated when the Government of Puntland reinforced its military presence in the contested region. On 26 June, "Somaliland" forces withdrew from Taleex, leaving behind a pro-"Somaliland" Dhulbahante militia. The "Khatumo" leaders relocated to Saaxdheer, an area in the Sool region near the Ethiopian border, from where one of the "Khatumo" founders and a parliamentarian, Ali Khalif Galayr, was elected the new President of "Khatumo" on 14 August. On 27 August, "Somaliland" forces captured Saaxdheer and have since occupied the area.

8. Although relations between the Federal Government and Puntland remained strained, some ministerial visits and technical meetings were conducted in relation to the New Deal Compact process. On 21 May, the Government of Puntland hosted a donor round table in Garoowe in which the participants, including the Federal Government, discussed the development priorities of Puntland and its participation in the New Deal aid architecture. Subsequently, Puntland dispatched ministerial delegations to the meeting of the Steering Committee of the Somalia Development and Reconstruction Facility on 12 June and to the executive meetings of the High-level Partnership Forum on 9 May and 12 June, in Mogadishu. Relations faced a setback, however, when, on 31 July, the Puntland authorities announced a freeze on all cooperative relations and activities with the Federal Government in reaction to the signing of the agreement on state formation in Galguduud and Mudug without consultations with them. On 18 August, the Government of Puntland offered a 30-day consultation period between Garoowe and Mogadishu in an effort to resolve differences.

9. Progress was made in the constitutional review process. On 29 May, the Council of Ministers approved the nominations of five individuals to serve as commissioners on the Independent Constitutional Review and Implementation Commission. The Federal Parliament approved the nominations on 19 June. The Commission is a body of legal and technical experts that will focus on the drafting of proposed constitutional amendments under the political supervision and guidance of the parliamentary Provisional Constitution Review and Implementation Oversight Committee.

10. On 30 June, the Federal Parliament passed the Judicial Service Commission Law. The Commission is the supreme administrative organ of the Somali judiciary and is a prerequisite for the establishment of a constitutional court as the country's highest court. The Commission's most important responsibilities include appointing, promoting, transferring, dismissing and disciplining the members of the judiciary.

11. In line with Vision 2016, an ad hoc parliamentary electoral committee was established on 19 May to draft a bill on a national independent electoral commission and to review comparative electoral systems. It draws members from both the Federal Parliament and the Federal Government. It has yet to agree on the legislation to establish the commission. The legislative agenda for the coming parliamentary session is crowded and, according to Vision 2016, the lower chamber of the Federal Parliament is expected to endorse the bill in November.

12. "Somaliland" continued to prepare to hold presidential and parliamentary elections in 2015. The authorities there are looking into the legal framework for the voter registration process and replacing the current electoral commission, whose mandate expires on 29 October. Meanwhile, the opposition political parties have vowed not to accept any delay in holding the elections.

13. Following an invitation by "Somaliland", my Special Representative, Nicholas Kay, visited Hargeysa on 18 and 19 August. The visit opened a new chapter in relations between the "Somaliland" authorities and UNSOM, with the former expressing interest in engaging with UNSOM in the areas of good offices, rule of law, human rights, media capacity-building and gender mainstreaming.

B. Security situation

14. The overall security situation in Somalia remains volatile. In Mogadishu, the number of incidents attributed to Al-Shabaab abated during May and June, but incidents during Ramadan increased as expected. On 24 May, Al-Shabaab fighters stormed the Federal Parliament building. Three AMISOM and 11 Somali troops were killed, while more than 20 others were injured, including a parliamentarian. Al-Shabaab claimed responsibility and vowed more attacks against the Federal Government and those it termed "invaders", including the United Nations.

15. In July, Mogadishu experienced a surge in targeted assassinations. The victims comprised members of the Somali security forces and civilians, including two parliamentarians. Small-scale explosions also increased. On 8 July, Somali troops foiled a complex attack inside Villa Somalia at the early stages of its execution. Another attack at the Federal Parliament building on 5 July failed when Somali police officers fired at a suspicious vehicle, which detonated, killing the suicide bomber and five officers. On 30 August, Al-Shabaab attacked a National Intelligence and Security Agency prison in Mogadishu, resulting in the deaths of seven attackers and three Agency personnel.

16. Following the attack of 8 July, the Federal Government replaced several senior security officials, including the Minister of National Security, the Police Commissioner and the Director General of the National Intelligence and Security Agency. After Ramadan, AMISOM and the Somali security forces launched a series of disarmament operations in Mogadishu in an attempt to improve the security situation.

17. In southern and central Somalia, Al-Shabaab continued to exert pressure. In the Galguduud and Hiraan regions, it intensified guerrilla activities around the former strongholds of Ceel Buur and Buulobarde. On 26 June, insurgents carried out a complex attack against a Djiboutian base in Buulobarde, killing two Somali troops.

18. While Shabelle Dhexe was comparatively quiet, Shabelle Hoose remained volatile, in particular around Afgooye, Marka and Qoryooley. Clan conflict between Biimaal and Habar Gidir militias also resurfaced, with fatal clashes, abductions and killings reported every week in June and July.

19. On 10 May, Waajid, Bakool region, experienced its first terrorist attack since being recovered by AMISOM and the national army, when an explosion outside a restaurant caused five casualties. On 12 May, a suicide car bombing in Baidoa, Bay region, killed 19 bystanders and injured 13 others. On 27 May, fierce fighting between Al-Shabaab, AMISOM and clan militias in Ato, Bakool region, resulted in more than 40 reported fatalities.

20. Kismaayo remained relatively calm, although underlying clan tensions sporadically escalated into armed violence among the Interim Juba Administration security forces. Kenyan forces launched air strikes in support of AMISOM around Jilib, Juba Dhexe, on 18, 20 and 24 May and 16, 22 and 24 July, as well as around Badhaadhe, Juba Hoose, on 21, 23 and 24 June.

21. Puntland experienced fresh Al-Shabaab activities. On 8 May, Al-Shabaab fighters clashed with Puntland security forces in Feloja, Bari region. On 4 August, the Police Commissioner for the Bari region was killed in a suicide bombing in Boosaaso and, on 7 August, the Chair of the Military Court survived an assassination attempt along the road between Garoowe and Boosaaso, in the Galgala area. In Gaalkacyo, two roadside bombings and three grenade attacks in July confirmed the presence of Al-Shabaab supporters in the town.

III. United Nations support to peace consolidation

A. Good offices and political support

22. My Special Representative, Nicholas Kay, continued to provide advice and good offices to the Federal Government on state formation. He advocated the resumption of cooperative relations between the Federal Government and Puntland and encouraged the leadership of the Federal Government to visit Puntland. On 17 and 18 August, he visited Garoowe and met the President of Puntland, Abdiweli Mohamed Ali Gaas, and senior officials, in addition to holding consultations with traditional leaders and civil society groups, including women and young people.

23. My Special Representative also met the Minister for Foreign Affairs of "Somaliland" in London and the President of Puntland in Nairobi, urging the two sides to reduce tensions and seek a political solution through dialogue. Coordinating closely with international partners, he also engaged with the various parties to state formation in south-west and central Somalia in support of the Federal Government's efforts to establish inclusive processes. On 20 May, for example, he met leaders of the six-region state initiative in Mogadishu to urge them to support the process led by the Federal Government that is bringing together all the parties.

24. Members of the Security Council made a landmark visit to Somalia on 13 August to review progress made by the Federal Government and to demonstrate the international community's continued support for the country's efforts to achieve sustainable peace.

B. Support to peacebuilding and State-building

Development of a federal system and constitutional review/democratic politics and governance

25. The United Nations continued to provide strategic policy advice in support of the state formation process in Somalia. UNSOM provided support to the Kismaayo reconciliation conference, working closely with the technical committee to create a road map for state formation.

26. In support of the Federal Government's progress towards the implementation of Vision 2016, UNSOM and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), with support from the Electoral Assistance Division of the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat, deployed a chief electoral adviser and a senior electoral affairs officer to Somalia. Their role is to provide technical advice to the Federal Government and UNSOM leadership on electoral priorities and legislation.

27. UNSOM and UNDP are providing advice and technical support to the Independent Constitutional Review and Implementation Commission. The United Nations provided funds for the renovation of the office building for the Commission and was represented at a technical retreat organized by the Federal Government to devise a workplan for the Commission.

Security sector and rule of law

Security sector reform

28. UNSOM supported efforts to align international assistance for a national security architecture framework with the consultative process led by the Federal Government, which includes the President and Prime Minister. The focus is on the areas of counter-insurgency, joint intelligence analysis, arms and ammunition management and maritime security, including coordination structures within the regions.

29. UNSOM conducted a baseline survey of small arms and ammunition in Mogadishu in support of the Federal Government. Its results were included in the Federal Government's report to the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 751 (1992) and 1907 (2009) concerning Somalia and Eritrea. The survey was extended to the army facilities in Beledweyne and Baidoa. A meeting of the Arms and Ammunition Steering Committee of the Federal Government was held on 27 August in Mogadishu.

30. Licences for 25 private security companies expired in June, but the Federal Government extended the licence of a company used by the United Nations for convoy services in Mogadishu until 25 October. In this regard, UNSOM submitted a draft development framework for a diplomatic police unit to the Federal Government for consideration.

31. UNSOM participated in the AMISOM after-action review of Operation Eagle, held in Addis Ababa on 28 and 29 May. AMISOM, with support from UNSOM, continues to provide refresher training, especially on human rights, with more than 5,500 army personnel having been trained to date.

32. The Defence Policy Working Group, led by officials from the Ministry of Defence, developed a draft defence strategic plan for the period 2014-2016 and submitted it to the Federal Government for review and finalization. UNSOM participated in a security sector reform meeting in Istanbul, Turkey, held on 10 July, to align its work for upcoming meetings, one in London on security sector reform and the other in Copenhagen on the High-level Partnership Forum.

33. Joint efforts by UNSOM and the World Bank to assist the Federal Government to undertake a public expenditure review of the security sector progressed with the preparation of technical assessments in the areas of public financial management, funding flows and the political, security and justice context.

Disengaging fighters

34. Supported by UNSOM, the Ministry of National Security convened on 10 July in Mogadishu the first meeting of the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Working Group. It was attended by representatives of Member States, AMISOM and implementing partners, such as the International Organization for Migration, the Serendi Rehabilitation Centre and the International Development Law Organization. The participants agreed upon the importance of the continued implementation of the national programme for the treatment and handling of disengaged combatants and expressed the need for a revision based on the new realities.

35. UNSOM supported the opening and occupation of the rehabilitation facility in Baidoa. It is also coordinating efforts to establish the first transitional facility for female disengaged Al-Shabaab members in Baidoa.

Police

36. The United Nations rule of law team, comprising UNSOM and United Nations country team staff, continued to support the Ministry of National Security in implementing peacebuilding and State-building goal 2 of the Somali Compact. Police working group meetings were held on 6 May and 24 July. Eight strategic planning team members were hired to support the Somali police in the implementation of the strategic action plan for the period 2013-2017 devised by the Ministry and the police.

37. From 1 to 5 June, UNSOM and AMISOM jointly facilitated a human rights training-of-trainers course for 25 Somali police officers. The twenty-second stipends payment cycle for police officers in southern and central Somalia was completed. Nearly 1,000 police officers in southern and central Somalia remain to be registered.

38. On 13 June, the Government of Japan approved the use of $4.5 million from the Trust Fund for Peace and Reconciliation in Somalia for a police utility, mobility and infrastructure project. United Nations police officers, through the joint global focal point arrangement, supervised the rehabilitation of four police stations and handed over the rehabilitated Boosaaso central police station on 20 July. UNSOM also secured funding to build an operations centre within the police headquarters and equipment to permit the police to be operational at all times.

39. UNSOM is currently supporting the Somali police in the recruitment of some 500 cadets in Mogadishu. The UNSOM rule of law team, with support from the United Nations Office for Project Services and with government stakeholders, began rule of law infrastructure assessments in southern and central Somalia to inform future programming support for construction and rehabilitation projects under the proposed joint rule of law programme.

40. The Explosive Ordnance Disposal Unit of the Somali police, supported by the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), responded to 935 call-outs and identified and destroyed 996 items of unexploded ordnance in Mogadishu and Baidoa. UNMAS, with funds from the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, is equipping and training officers to provide the Somali police with improvised explosive device defeat capacity. The team will be operational by the end of 2014. Teams from AMISOM formed police units from Nigeria and Uganda were trained by UNMAS in explosive ordnance disposal, enabling joint AMISOM and Somali police operations to be conducted in Mogadishu.

Justice and corrections

41. The UNSOM rule of law team continued to support the implementation of peacebuilding and State-building goal 3 of the Somali Compact, in particular by strengthening the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs through the recruitment of 28 Somali advisers and by supporting legal policymaking and the drafting of key priority laws. Coordination of international assistance continues, with support provided for the development of the Somali rule of law programme priorities, which were endorsed by the Steering Committee of the Somalia Development and Reconstruction Facility on 31 August. This provides the foundation for the development of the joint rule of law programme for 2015-2016, to be funded from the Multi-Partner Trust Fund for Somalia.

42. A pilot project at the Banadir Regional Court complex in Mogadishu is under way to put in place measures to provide essential security arrangements for judicial actors through infrastructure improvements and protection by police and custodial corps officers. As part of continuing advocacy efforts for a moratorium on the death penalty and the application of fair trial standards, UNSOM began discussions with the newly appointed Chief Justice of the Military Court and continued to garner support from international partners.

Maritime security

43. On 30 June 2014, the President of Somalia issued a proclamation to define the country's exclusive economic zone, including a list of geographical coordinates of points defining the limits of that zone. One State has objected to the limits. Under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, coastal States have sovereign rights in the exclusive economic zone with regard to natural resources and some economic activities and exercise jurisdiction over marine science research and environmental protection.

Mine action

44. UNMAS continued to provide technical advice and financial support to the Somali Explosive Management Authority and the mine action centres in "Somaliland" and Puntland, supporting national capacity to coordinate explosive

hazard management throughout Somalia. It provided training on how to mark weapons and keep records to 10 army personnel from 3 to 8 June, supporting the Federal Government in increasing transparency and accountability in accordance with the modified arms embargo.

45. Battle area clearance by UNMAS resulted in the destruction of 749 items of unexploded ordnance, thereby preventing their use in improvised explosive devices. From 28 April to 1 May, UNMAS conducted training of trainers for police officers in Kismaayo on explosive ordnance disposal and improvised explosive device awareness.

46. UNMAS facilitated 15 joint Somali police and AMISOM explosive dog detection searches, including, and at the request of the Federal Government, pre-emptive venue and vehicle searches in Kismaayo, Baidoa and Mogadishu. All United Nations Guard Unit personnel received awareness training on improvised explosive devices as part of the United Nations Support Office for AMISOM (UNSOA) training package.

C. Human rights and protection

Human rights

47. UNSOM initiated a process to harmonize the support provided by the United Nations to the Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development, while continuing to offer technical assistance to the Ministry on the implementation of the post-transition human rights road map and the establishment of an independent human rights commission. UNSOM provided technical assistance in the form of training to the Puntland parliamentary committee on human rights and supported the establishment of the Office of the Human Rights Defender in Puntland.

48. In July and August, nine people were executed by firing squad in Mogadishu after having been found guilty of terrorism and murder in the military justice system. To date in 2014, 14 people have been executed by the Federal Government. UNSOM has continued to raise concerns over due process and the quality of justice delivered by the military courts.

49. Civilians continued to suffer human rights violations and abuses linked to conflict in many regions of southern and central Somalia. A human rights assessment carried out in Shabelle Hoose indicated that 75 civilians had been killed and 14 women raped during inter-clan fighting in May and June. In July, inter-clan violence in the Hiraan region reportedly resulted in the deaths of at least six civilians. In both situations, soldiers from the national army were involved in the fighting.

50. In Mogadishu, more than 10,600 internally displaced persons received eviction notifications during the reporting period. Most have already been evicted. According to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the people concerned were notified orally of the impending eviction in almost all cases. Internally displaced persons were forcefully evicted mainly from public land that is now claimed by private persons in the districts of Hodan, Xamar Jajab, Wadajir, Shibis and Xamar Weyne.

51. More than 2,980 Somalis were deported to Somalia from Saudi Arabia from May to July, while 198 Somalis were deported from Kenya to Mogadishu by air in May. UNHCR further recorded six cases of refoulement of registered refugees and asylum seekers and sought their readmission to Kenya on their behalf.

52. Al-Shabaab reportedly carried out at least 21 public executions during the reporting period, notably in the Bay and Bakool regions, of people whom they accused of either spying for the Federal Government or breaking regulations that the group had imposed in areas under its control.

53. As attacks continued in Mogadishu, public officials and media workers were among those targeted. On 21 June, a well-known journalist, Yusuf Keynan, was killed in an attack using a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device. On 25 July, another prominent journalist, Mohamed Abdullahi Haji, survived a similar attack. UNSOM has expressed concern about continuing violations of the right to freedom of expression, in particular in the context of the forced closure of media outlets and the detention of journalists.

Child protection

54. A total of 166 cases of grave violations affecting 154 children (112 boys and 42 girls) were documented.

55. The children and armed conflict working group co-chaired by the country task force on monitoring and reporting and the Ministry of Defence held its bimonthly meeting on 14 April and discussed the establishment of a child protection unit within the army. On 27 May, the Ministry nominated members of the unit at the headquarters level, with military liaison officers for the sectors to be identified subsequently. A mobile screening team was set up on 14 May to systematically screen army and police units in order to separate any children found. On 29 June and 12 July, 250 soldiers and 900 new recruits were screened at Jazeera Training Centre. No children were found.

56. From 16 to 21 August, my Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict, Leila Zerrougui, visited Somalia and Nairobi. She met the President, the Prime Minister and key ministers, who reiterated their commitment to implementing relevant action plans on children and armed conflict, supporting the global campaign "Children, Not Soldiers" and ratifying the Convention on the Rights of the Child. She also met senior officials of UNSOM and AMISOM, the Interim Juba Administration in Kismaayo and the United Nations country team and visited a reintegration centre supported by the United Nations Children's Fund and the Serendi Rehabilitation Centre.

Gender mainstreaming and empowerment of women

57. On 3 May, my Special Representative met 12 women civil society representatives, including journalists and students, to discuss their views on the political situation and the future of Somalia. They raised concerns about preparations for the elections to be held in 2016, the security situation and the delays in political processes, such as state formation and constitutional review.

58. On 24 June, a workshop was jointly organized and led by UNSOM and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women in Mogadishu with 40 women civil society leaders from the Banadir, Puntland, Bay,

Juba Hoose, "Galmudug", Galguduud and Hiraan regions to plan their involvement in the upcoming political processes. The event was preceded by meetings within each of the regions to discuss best practices and lessons learned. In closing the workshop, the President reiterated his support for the promotion of women into leadership positions. As a result of the workshop, a core group of women civil society leaders, within the framework of the Somali Women Leadership Initiative, have been meeting UNSOM weekly to review the mobilization and management of women's participation in political processes.

59. On 19 July, UNSOM and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women supported the Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development in undertaking consultations for the 20-year review of the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women. The event was attended by 60 participants from civil society and the Federal Government and will result in a comprehensive report on the situation of women in the 12 areas of concern of the Platform. The Ministry also continued its efforts to coordinate support for the finalization of the national gender policy and submitted a draft action plan for consideration by donors on 23 July.

Sexual violence in conflict

60. The Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development used the report of the Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict as the evidential base for tackling sexual violence in Somalia. The Ministry, with the support of the United Nations and the Government of the United Kingdom, held consultations from 12 to 17 May on four themes: civil society, service delivery, uniformed services and access to justice. They were aimed at reaching agreement on aims and objectives with all government line ministries and hearing the views of those delivering front-line services.

61. Following the consultations, the Federal Government developed a national action plan on sexual violence in conflict that is fully aligned with the New Deal Compact and agreed upon by multiple government line ministries, including those of defence and justice, the army and the police. Civil society organizations were extensively consulted. The Federal Government presented the draft plan, which will be finalized following regional consultations, to the international community during the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict, held in London from 10 to 13 June. The progress made was welcomed by the key actors, the United Nations and the donor community, with pledges made to support the implementation phase.

D. Humanitarian situation

62. Somalia is experiencing one of the most serious humanitarian crises in the world. About 3 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance, including an estimated 1.1 million people internally displaced by recurrent droughts, floods and conflict. Some 73,000 people have been displaced by insecurity since March, following the launch of the first joint army and AMISOM military operations against Al-Shabaab. Most have not yet returned to their place of origin.

63. After two years of incremental improvements, the food security situation in Somalia has, according to projections by the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit — Somalia, seriously deteriorated. For the first time since the famine of 2011,

the number of people who cannot meet their daily food needs over the coming six months has increased from 857,000 to 1.1 million. This is due to drought, continued conflict, the restricted flow of commercial goods in areas affected by military operations, increasing malnutrition and surging food prices. Drought conditions were present in southern, central and north-eastern Somalia from July, with overall rainfall recorded at less than half of normal levels during the main rainy season (from April to June).

64. Acute malnutrition levels have also increased, in particular in parts of the north-west, southern and central regions. There are more than 218,000 acutely malnourished children in Somalia, of whom 44,000 are severely malnourished and at risk of death. Overall, 3 in 4 acutely malnourished children are found in southern and central Somalia, many living in areas in which road access is blocked by armed groups. The most alarming malnutrition rates have been observed among displaced communities, with global acute malnutrition rates up to 18.9 per cent (the emergency threshold is 15 per cent) in seven urban displacement settlements: Dhobley, Doolow, Dhuusamarreeb, Garoowe, Gaalkacyo, Kismaayo and Mogadishu.

65. The outbreak of measles has persisted, with around 6,000 suspected cases reported between January and July, more than double the number of cases in the same period in 2013. In some areas in central and southern Somalia, immunization coverage is as low as 15 per cent owing to access and funding constraints. Intensive vaccination campaigns notwithstanding, four new cases of wild polio virus were confirmed in 2014, bringing the number of those affected to 198 since the outbreak began in May 2013, most of them children. If drought conditions persist, the already-high incidences of diarrhoea and other diseases will increase as people are forced to resort to unsafe water sources.

66. Violence and conflict continue to take a heavy toll on civilians, mainly in southern and central Somalia. In May and June, some 1,200 weapon-related injuries were treated in eight hospitals in Mogadishu, Kismaayo, Mudug and Baidoa, with more than 100 deaths reported.

67. Humanitarian access remains difficult, given that high levels of insecurity prevail in most districts of southern and central Somalia. Access to the newly recovered towns has relied heavily on air services, which renders humanitarian action expensive, unreliable and unsustainable.

68. The challenging operating environment notwithstanding, aid organizations continued to provide assistance during the reporting period. Some 1.4 million people received food and livelihood relief, with 97,000 children treated for malnutrition. Almost 500,000 people were supported with temporary or permanent access to safe water and 160,000 people were provided with latrines. Another 315,000 people were supported with hygiene promotion packages. Some 500,000 people were provided with essential health services, with a campaign to vaccinate 520,000 against measles conducted in July and August. In addition, 3.4 million children under 5 years of age were vaccinated against polio in May and June. Some 15,000 people received emergency assistance packages and household items, including plastic sheeting, blankets and mattresses, while 54,000 others were provided with transitional shelter. Around 4,400 survivors of protection violations were provided with support, with 383 children formerly associated with armed groups benefitting from community-based reintegration programmes. With regard to education, 232,000 learners were supported through teacher training and incentives. Humanitarian partners also assisted 155 separated and unaccompanied children, including those deported from Saudi Arabia.

69. On 19 August, the Prime Minister conducted the first visit of a Somali prime minister to the Dadaab refugee camp in Kenya. A day earlier, the participants in a ministerial-level meeting on Somali refugees, held in Addis Ababa and attended by UNHCR, my Special Representative for Somalia and ministers from Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Uganda and Yemen, which together host nearly 1 million Somali refugees, reaffirmed the commitment of host countries to finding solutions. The participants welcomed the provision of asylum space to refugees and agreed that conditions for mass return had not yet been met in Somalia.

E. Stabilization

70. Efforts to establish caretaker administrations and provide urgent security, livelihood and humanitarian assistance continued. In July, the Federal Government reported that training for all caretaker administrations had been completed through the Somalia Stability Fund in partnership with the Government of Sweden. Administrations have been established in Xuddur, Waajid, Warsheikh, Qoryooley and Buulobarde. However, access remains a key obstacle to deploying the remaining administrations and delivering other stabilizing assistance.

71. International planning and coordination also continued. At the strategic level, the President convened an inaugural high-level meeting with representatives of AMISOM, UNSOM, UNSOA and government officials on 16 August to review planning for the second phase of operations, including stabilization activities. A proposal for $3.5 million from the Peacebuilding Fund was finalized in partnership with the Federal Government and submitted to the Peacebuilding Support Office for appraisal and approval.

F. Socioeconomic recovery and development

72. On 29 May, the Financial Governance Committee held its third meeting in Mogadishu, the first at which all six members were present. Secretariat support provided through the World Bank arrived on 7 June, enabling the Committee to identify technical assistance requirements and initiate more systematic communication with key stakeholders and the Somali public. On 12 June, the Steering Committee of the Somalia Development and Reconstruction Facility welcomed its progress. On 16 July, the Committee released a progress report in which it highlighted key achievements, including the endorsement of the procurement amendment bill and the audit bill by the Council of Ministers, the preparation of financial statements by the Central Bank and the Ministry of Finance and the Committee's review of six concession contracts with technical input from the World Bank and the African Development Bank. On 17 July, the Federal Government requested the Committee to oversee and monitor the future national asset recovery programme, in close cooperation with the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative.

73. Efforts are under way to strengthen the role of Somalia in the global trading system. On 17 June, the Prime Minister signed a formal request to the executive secretariat of the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries to include Somalia in the programme. The Enhanced Integrated Framework promotes the mainstreaming of trade into the development agenda of least developed countries and allows access to international trade-related technical assistance through Aid for Trade programmes.

G. Targeted sanctions

74. During the informal consultations of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 751 (1992) and 1907 (2009) concerning Somalia and Eritrea, held on 15 May, the Somali National Security Adviser provided a briefing on the efforts of the Federal Government to meet the requirements of resolution 2142 (2014) and implement the recommendations of the assessment mission that I deployed to Somalia pursuant to paragraph 10 of the same resolution. The Monitoring Group on Somalia and Eritrea is finalizing its report on Somalia and will present its findings to the Committee early in October.

H. Coordination of international efforts

75. Executive meetings of the High-level Partnership Forum were held on 9 May and 24 June, co-chaired by the President and my Special Representative. The need for urgent delivery on the New Deal Compact commitments and for improvement in the transparency of international assistance was emphasized. The Steering Committee of the Somalia Development and Reconstruction Facility held meetings on 12 June and 31 August, chaired by the Prime Minister. Discussions focused on current aid flows to Somalia and the engagement of States and regions in the implementation of the Compact.

76. Sector-level coordination continued through the working groups on the peacebuilding and State-building goals. They are currently finalizing their planning frameworks and identifying key gaps and support needs until 2016.

IV. Implementation of Security Council resolution 2124 (2013)

77. As one of its priorities, UNSOM continues to work with its partners on implementing the human rights due diligence policy in Somalia. It provided human rights input into pre-deployment training for AMISOM contingents in Bujumbura and Kampala. It also provided training in human rights and international humanitarian law to AMISOM, the army and the police in Mogadishu and Baledogle, Shabelle Hoose. It is finalizing the risk assessments of AMISOM and the army while continuing to monitor the human rights situation in the newly recovered areas.

78. Somali troops have also been undergoing "fit for combat" training, which includes a module on human rights and humanitarian law, delivered by Ethiopian and Djiboutian trainers in sectors 3 and 4. In total, 2,747 and 1,000 troops have been trained in sectors 3 and 4, respectively. Other troops also underwent training in sectors 1, 2, 5 and 6.

Logistical support to the African Union Mission in Somalia and the army

79. UNSOA continued to provide its logistical support package to AMISOM and the army, as authorized by the Security Council in its resolution 2124 (2013) and the revised AMISOM concept of operations. Owing to bad weather and insecure major supply routes, UNSOA had to deliver rations by air to forward locations in sectors 2 to 5, putting considerable pressure on UNSOA utility air assets and restricting air movements for other tasks. UNSOA put in place the arrangements necessary to support the second joint AMISOM and army offensive, "Operation Indian Ocean", which began in the last week of August.

80. UNSOA also continued its engineering and construction work in all sectors in support of AMISOM, including constructing accommodation and offices, defence walls and level II medical facilities, drilling wells for water and providing sanitation facilities. It completed terrestrial trunked radio tactical communication hubs in sectors 2 and 4 and at the sector Kismaayo headquarters. In addition, it provided pre-deployment, in-mission and other training support to 562 AMISOM personnel, bringing the total number of personnel trained since April 2009 to 9,476.

81. UNSOA supported and participated in the joint verification of Ethiopian troops in sectors 3 and 4 in July. AMISOM also participated. Relief in place operations between sector 2 and sector Kismaayo have not been completed owing to concerns that are currently being dealt with by the African Union Commission. The rotation of Sierra Leonean troops that was initially scheduled to begin in July 2014 was postponed owing to the outbreak of Ebola virus disease in Sierra Leone.

82. UNSOA operates hub-and-spoke air services with fixed-wing aircraft between the six sector hubs and helicopters within each sector. The air logistics support concept is based on a centralized operations system, with the main logistics bases in Mogadishu, and decentralized execution, feeding the other five sector logistics/tactical hubs (Baidoa, Beledweyne, Kismaayo, Jawhar and Dhobley). This is augmented by administrative and medical/casualty evacuation support from Nairobi. In total, UNSOA has deployed nine utility helicopters and three fixed-wing aircraft. Currently, six helicopters are based in Mogadishu, one in Wajir (Kenya) and two in Baidoa. There are also two fixed-wing aircraft in Mogadishu and another in Nairobi. UNSOA plans to deploy a C-130 heavy cargo aircraft to meet new demand for transportation of rations, supplies and cargo.

83. As a component of the UNSOA logistical support package, UNMAS continued to provide explosive management training, equipment and mentoring to joint AMISOM and army operations in southern and central Somalia. In July, it facilitated the deployment of AMISOM explosive ordnance disposal teams to Jawhar to clear the Afgooye-Marka road, which had been prone to improvised explosive device attacks against AMISOM and the local population. A convoy route survey, in the context of explosive hazards, was provided for the delivery of rations to Beled Amin in the Bay region and Marka and facilitated the movement of several hundred AMISOM troops from Mogadishu to Jawhar. UNMAS provided medical backup to AMISOM explosive ordnance disposal teams and facilitated medical care for the army, AMISOM and the local population in Shalambot in Shabelle Hoose and Beled Amin.

84. During the reporting period, support to the army was mainly focused on assisting it to meet the preconditions for UNSOA logistical support, in line with resolution 2124 (2013).

85. UNSOA has to date spent $2.1 million of the total contributions of $8.3 million to the United Nations Trust Fund for the Somali National Army. An amount of $1.627 million has been earmarked for the purchase of critical supplies for the army. In addition to contributions from the Governments of Italy, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, some $750,000 has been pledged by the Governments of Ethiopia and New Zealand. The contributions still fall below the estimated $19.6 million required for the initial year, however. The balance in the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of AMISOM currently stands at $4 million, following the recent contribution by the Government of Australia of $1 million.

V. United Nations presence in Somalia

Expansion of the presence

86. The reoccupation of international compounds along the road to Mogadishu International Airport, closed after the attack of 19 June 2013, began on 24 April with the United Nations common compound. Over the period, in-country staff figures averaged 330 international staff and 990 national staff, with an average of 190 international staff in Mogadishu. Of those staff, the UNSOM deployment strength stands at approximately 60.

Integration

87. The integrated strategic framework, which also serves as the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, was endorsed by the United Nations presence in Somalia at a United Nations country team retreat held on 3 July. It was further fine-tuned in discussion with the United Nations Development Group and the donor community before being formally endorsed by the Integrated Task Force on Somalia in New York on 27 August. The final step in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework process is the presentation of the integrated strategic framework to the Federal Government in September.

Staff safety and security

88. During the reporting period, there were no significant security incidents affecting United Nations staff, programmes or assets. Security within Mogadishu International Airport was bolstered with the deployment of the United Nations Guard Unit, the advance elements of which arrived on 6 and 7 May. The Unit's first-phase deployment of 332 personnel within the main compounds at the airport was completed on 15 June. The second-phase deployment of 78 personnel was completed on 8 and 9 July, thereby achieving the mandated strength of 410 troops. The second-phase personnel are to deploy to the proposed new UNSOM headquarters. The amendment to the status-of-mission agreement, aimed at facilitating the Unit's operations, remains under negotiation with the Federal Government. Memorandums of understanding are also under negotiation with the African Union and the Federal Government, aimed at coordinating the Unit's operations with those of AMISOM and the Somali security forces.

VI. Observations

89. As we approach the midpoint of the four-year term of the Federal Government in September, I remain cautiously optimistic about progress in the political process, the many risks ahead notwithstanding. International attention and support will continue to be critical as the Federal Government and people of Somalia work towards their shared goals of State-building and peacebuilding. The historic visit of the Security Council in August has given a strong signal of the sustained commitment of the international community to supporting the process.

90. The past months have seen growing momentum towards realizing the vision of Somalia as a federal State. I welcome Vision 2016, which has helpfully clarified the roles of federal institutions in the process and set out key principles of inclusiveness, transparency and Somali ownership, in addition to clear timelines. I

welcome the agreement to establish an interim south-west administration and the agreement of intent to form an interim administration for Galguduud and southern Mudug. I call upon the Federal Government to ensure that the processes are further developed in an inclusive manner, in line with the provisional Federal Constitution, and encourage all stakeholders to engage. I am concerned that progress could be jeopardized by current inter-clan tensions, in particular in Shabelle Hoose, and urge all parties to seek a peaceful solution to their concerns within the context of the federal vision as a whole. I welcome the commitment of the Interim Juba Administration to a fully inclusive State-building process. I encourage the parties to the Addis Ababa Agreement to swiftly implement outstanding commitments, especially holding a reconciliation conference and integrating militias operating outside Kismaayo.

91. Time is now extremely tight to realize the constitutional review and electoral preparations if the deadline of 2016 is to be respected. Unity among federal institutions will be crucial. The Federal Parliament has a critical role to play and the coming parliamentary session will be decisive if the benchmarks in Vision 2016 are to be met. I welcome the formation of the Independent Constitution Review and Implementation Commission and encourage the Federal Parliament to move swiftly also to form a boundaries and federation commission. A broad-based constitutional review process should get under way rapidly, fully involving the regions of Somalia and addressing critical federal issues, including the future structure of the security sector.

92. I am especially concerned about the slow progress in electoral preparations. An independent national electoral commission must be established without delay if the target is to remain within reach. I encourage Somali and international partners to work together in a coordinated manner to support the development of credible, transparent institutions capable of administering an electoral process.

93. The recent escalation in tensions between Puntland and "Somaliland", including the deployment of military forces in the border areas, is of concern. I repeat my earlier calls upon the two parties to exercise maximum restraint and to take steps towards de-escalating the situation. My Special Representative continues to engage the parties through his good offices, in coordination with regional and international partners.

94. I commend the continued efforts of the army and AMISOM to advance military operations against Al-Shabaab, including through the launch of "Operation Indian Ocean". They have shown great courage and perseverance in the face of extremely dangerous conditions. I urge Member States to assist AMISOM in deploying the air assets authorized in resolution 2124 (2013) and to contribute to the United Nations Trust Fund for the Somali National Army as soon as possible.

95. It is essential that military operations be followed immediately by efforts to establish or improve governance structures in the recovered areas and by the delivery of basic services, including security. Failure to consolidate the gains in those areas could also derail the broader political process. I call upon the international community to rally behind the Federal Government to meet this urgent priority.

96. I am extremely concerned that the humanitarian situation continues to deteriorate. After the gradual rebuilding of livelihoods since the famine of 2011 that cost more than a quarter of a million lives in excess mortality, fragile gains are now being eroded and malnutrition rates are again on the rise. The difficulties in access

notwithstanding, humanitarian agencies have been able to reach some of those in need, but are constrained by their lack of resources. The consolidated appeal for 2014 remains severely underfunded, at just 32 per cent (a gap of $637 million). I urge partners to help to fill the gap and caution that a humanitarian crisis in Somalia would be likely to severely hamper hard-won gains on the political and security fronts.

97. Securing the main supply routes is critical to offering safe access for civilians, commercial activities and humanitarian actors, to peacebuilding and to enabling the efforts of UNSOA, which is doing its utmost to support the operations. I support the President's calls for the military operations to accord priority to this task.

98. I welcome the steps taken by the Federal Government to comply with the sanctions regime imposed by the Security Council, including implementing the recommendations made in my letter of 3 April to the President of the Council (S/2014/243). I encourage partners to support efforts to develop the capacity of the Somali authorities in this regard and urge the Federal Government to continue and enhance its compliance efforts. Meanwhile, I am concerned about the continuing export of Somali charcoal in violation of the ban imposed by the Council in its resolution 2036 (2012) and request the Federal Government, AMISOM and recipient countries to coordinate their efforts to implement the ban.

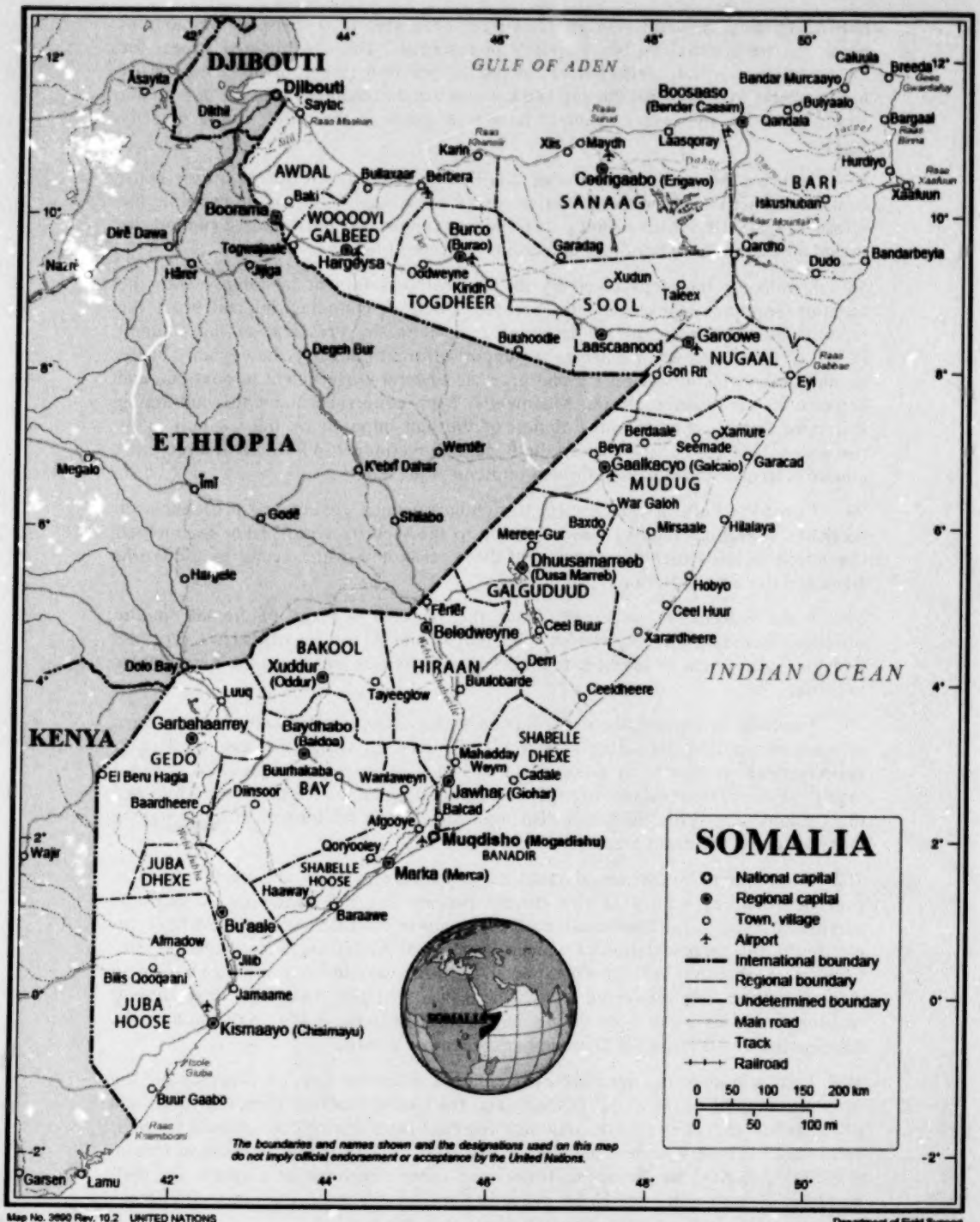
99. I urge the Federal Government to tighten financial governance procedures, in particular regarding funding flows relating to the security sector. I am encouraged that a joint public expenditure review of the security and justice sector by the World Bank and the United Nations is in progress.

100. I am extremely concerned about the targeted killings of Somali public officials, including five legislators, two judges and 31 police officers. I urge the Federal Government to investigate all criminal activities and bring the perpetrators to justice.

101. I remain concerned about the human rights and protection situation in areas affected by conflict, including as a result of inter-clan violence. I am particularly concerned about reports of grave violations against women and children. I again urge the Federal Government to ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto. I also urge the Somali authorities to implement a moratorium on the death penalty.

102. I continue to be concerned about the underrepresentation of Somali women in peacebuilding, especially in the current process for the formation of regional administrations. I urge the Somali authorities not to miss the current opportunity to ensure the full representation of women in political processes, in line with Security Council resolution 1325 (2000). Special attention should be given to supporting women in the newly recovered areas, where they will play a key role in rebuilding war-torn societies. I call upon the Somali authorities to ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

103. I pay tribute to my Special Representative, Nicholas Kay, his deputies and the members of staff of UNSOM, UNSOA and the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and other international and regional organizations in Somalia for their continued hard work under challenging conditions. I also thank the African Union, AMISOM, IGAD, the European Union and other development partners for their sustained support to the search for peace in Somalia. We must continue to strengthen our partnership in the quest for lasting peace and stability.



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